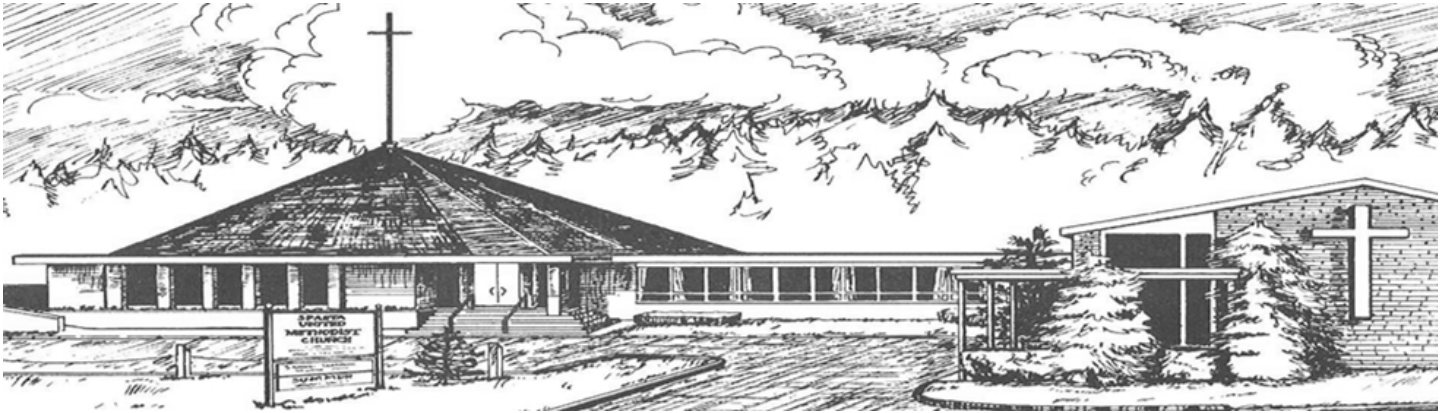


SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Dear Friends,

May 24th is the day of Pentecost for the church. On Pentecost Sunday, we will be confirming 3 young people, celebrating this step in their journey of faith. It is a day of celebration for the whole church that reminds us that the church is always growing and being reborn in every generation. On the day of Pentecost, as told in Acts, the Spirit of God moved among ordinary people and formed them into an extraordinary community of witness. What began as fear and uncertainty for the followers of Jesus was transformed into boldness, clarity, and purpose. For the church in the 21st century, Pentecost reminds us that we are not sustained by tradition alone or by our own ingenuity, but by the Holy Spirit. In a world marked by division, anxiety, and rapid change, the same Spirit continues to breathe life into the church, calling us beyond our walls and into God's on-going mission.

Pentecost is ultimately a sending event. The miracle of many languages spoken and understood is not just about communication, but also inclusion, God's declaration that the good news is for all people, across every boundary we might construct. This calls the church to listen deeply and engage faithfully with a diverse and often fragmented world. Whether through acts of justice, care for creation, or service to our neighbors, we are invited to embody a faith that speaks in ways others can hear with more than just words, but with lives shaped by grace and humility.

Pentecost is a day to remember that the church does not exist for itself; it exists for the sake of the world God loves. This means embracing both courage and creativity as we discern how to be faithful in this generation. The Spirit who descended like wind and fire has not grown silent or still. Even now, that same Spirit is stirring, equipping, and sending us to be a church in mission, alive with hope, and radiant with the love of Christ.

In Christ,
Steve

NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Worship Schedule



Worship Every Sunday at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Communion is celebrated each week at the 8:45 a.m. service, and at the beginning of each month at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Contemplative Services are back to the first Wednesday of the month at 12:15 p.m.

Altar Flowers



Celebrate with Flowers!

We are now accepting requests for altar flowers for May 31, June 21, July 5, and 12.

You can acknowledge loved ones or special occasions with an altar flower arrangement. Arrangements cost \$35. Please pay the church directly, including a note that the payment is for altar flowers for a specific date.

Use [this link](#)* to reserve flowers. We need your name, phone number or email address, and the dedication. Please let us

know if you plan to take the flowers after the 10:30 service, or if you want them delivered to someone needing a pick-me-up. Any questions? Contact Yvonne Roux, yrouxrings@gmail.com, or 973-534-6129.

*bit.ly/4sUELRO



Scan this QR Code to reserve flowers.

Scan me

Publication Deadlines

The deadline for the Newsletter is on the **15th of the month before**. For the weekly bulletin and announcements, the deadline is the **Wednesday before**.

NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul

Love like Jesus and “feed my sheep.”

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.” ~Dali Lama

You can help by signing up using the link below. You can also help by donating to the Thrift Shop, helping in the Shop and by holding all the workers, shoppers, and people needing help, in prayer.

Sign Up Genius

[Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, May 2026](#)



NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Church Mouse Thrift Shop



Church Mouse Thrift Shop
71 Sparta Ave.
Sparta, NJ 07871
973-729-9121

Hours:
Wed. & Sat.: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Thur. & Fri.: 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.



Did you know the Church Mouse Thrift Shop has a Facebook Page? **The Church Mouse Thrift Shop of The Sparta United Methodist Church**

The shop is looking for a glass-front display cabinet with lock to show off our fabulous jewelry and other delicate items. If you have one you are looking to get rid of, please let us know.

We're always looking for **new volunteers** to help in the thrift shop, especially on **Thursdays and Fridays**.



Happening in the store **this month**:

- Mother's Day Sale: 50% off all Women's Department items: Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, Accessories.
- Keep a lookout on our Facebook page for the Memorial Day sales:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578137110625>



NEWSLETTER – May 2026

United Women in Faith

MOTHERS and FATHERS—Remember and Honor

Once again this year at Mother’s Day and at Father’s Day, the Sparta United Women in Faith are inviting you to honor the mothers and fathers in your lives. In the church bulletin on May 10th we will have a special page listing the mothers you would like to recognize; in the church bulletin on June 21st we will have a special page listing the fathers you want to recognize.

We are asking that for each name listed, you donate \$2.00. This money will go to the World Thank Offering of United Methodist Women and be used for mission programs helping women, children, families. Please make out any checks to: Sparta United Women in Faith.

We have two categories: “In **Memory** of” and “In **Honor** of”. Please fill out the form and put it in an envelope in the United Methodist Women’s mail slot or place in the offering plate. Mother’s Day deadline is **May 7**. E-mail names **now!** Pay later.

If you choose to wait until closer to Father’s Day to list those names, we will run the form again at that time. You will have a chance to recognize fathers closer to Father’s Day in June. Or you can recognize both now and we will save the fathers’ names until June.

***** PLEASE PRINT *****

For Mother’s Day (please email OfficeAdmin@SpartaUMC.org by **May 7th**!)

Submitted by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

List names ONLY. Extra words will not be used.

***** PLEASE PRINT *****

For Father’s Day (please email OfficeAdmin@SpartaUMC.org by **June 13th**!)

Submitted by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

List names ONLY. Extra words will not be used.

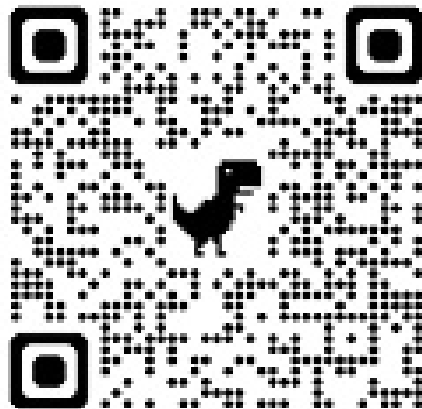
NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Vacation Bible School



Sparta United Methodist Church

July 27-31, 2026 ◆ **9:00 am to Noon**



NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Prayers Around the Peace Pole

Upcoming
Prayers Around the Peace Pole
services:
All starting at 7:00PM.

June 5
July 26



United Women in Faith

From Tags to Riches

Tag Your Gifts with Purpose!

Our Sparta UWF is supported by Soup and Quiche sales and another ministry called: **From Tags to Riches**. Jill is turning old/used greeting cards into gift tags! These tags come in an assortment of festive themes.



Imagine adorning your gifts with tags featuring delicate butterflies, birds, and flowers for **Mother's Day**. Also, **Birthdays** and **Anniversaries** happen all year long! Grab a selection of 10 tags for just \$1! Every penny supports the amazing work of United Women in Faith (UWF) at our church. If you are interested in supporting UWF through the purchase of gift tags, please see Sue in the office.

Recycling your old cards is easy! Gather your used cards, pop them in a bag labeled "Jill," and drop the cards off in the Church Secretary mailbox.

Let's upcycle and support UWF together! Thank you.

NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Do you know a kid or teen who wants to be on stage?

OZ is going to be happening right here at our church!



Contact Tony at 201-230-7558 or MovieMagicParties.com

Donations



When you send your pledge payments via cash, check, or Vanco, if you are intending the payment to be split between the Operating Budget and the Capital (Building) Fund, please indicate on your envelope, check, or Vanco payments how you want it split.

Sometimes we have to guess, but we don't always get it right. So please tell us.

If you make recurring donations through Vanco and have changed your pledge this year from what it was last year, be sure to make those changes to your account **in Vanco**.



NEWSLETTER – May 2026

Meeting Groups

For all Zoom Gatherings, you may use either the Video Link or the Phone-in # with ID #

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 A. M. in the Wesley Room

MONDAY NIGHT BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets by ZOOM at 7:00 P. M.

Currently reading *Being Jesus in Nashville* by Jim Palmer. Feel free to join on any Monday.

For more information, see Pastor Steve.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09>

TUESDAY MORNING HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

Every TUESDAY Morning at 10 A. M. Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RICDFWN93l16_aMcguqxF.1

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile+16465588656,,85294018790#

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 A. M. at Angelo's Franklin Diner

FRIDAY MORNING READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

Friday's at 10:00 A. M.

You Were Made for This Moment – How the Story of Esther Inspires Us to Step Up and Stand Out for God
by Max Lucado

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

Alternate Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 389 284 226 -- Passcode: 7773

Volunteering

Here's a list of the various committees and other activities we have going on here at the Sparta United Methodist Church. Something here might spark an interest to get you involved.

Choir: Every Sunday 9:45 & Noon.

Church Mouse Board: 1st Monday of the month 12:00 PM.

United Women in Faith: One Monday a month 12:30 PM.

Mission Committee: 1st Wednesday of even # months 7:00 PM.

Bell Choir: Every Tuesday 7:00 PM.

Church Council: Usually on one Wednesday a month 7:00 PM.

Trustees: Usually on one Thursday a month 7:00 PM.

FTB/FTS Setup: The evening before the 2nd Friday 7:00 PM.

Feed The Body/Feed The Soul: 2nd Friday 10:00 AM.

Church & Society: 1st Saturday 10:00 AM.

Memorial Committee.

Art Show Planning Committee.

Worship Committee.

Sunday School.

Finance Committee.

Earthkeepers.

Lay Leaders.

Church Mouse Volunteers.

Worship Committee

Focusing on the Positive: The Gratitude Box

This is a wonderful opportunity to shift our focus and recognize the positive elements in our lives. Actively focusing on gratitude helps foster a sense of joy, peace, and abundance, even amidst the challenges we all face. When we deliberately seek out and acknowledge our blessings, it can profoundly improve our outlook and well-being. The Gratitude Box is located in the narthex.



What are YOU grateful for?

Hugs,
Jill

This is what I am thankful for:

- Having hands that can create—whether it’s the crisp fold of a piece of origami paper, the soft texture of speckled yarn, or the rhythmic clicking of a keyboard while writing my autobiography.
- The comfort of the small, everyday noises in my house like the sound of my wife’s voice in the next room that reminds me of exactly where I belong.
- That spark of excitement when I spot a unique item at the thrift shop that I know will help me make the perfect subject for a social media post, turning a simple object into a story for the community.
- The resilience of the online spaces I’ve helped build, like a group that has provided comfort for seventeen years to people who have lost their beloved pets, proving that a screen can be a genuine source of healing and human connection.



Tell us what you are grateful for and put it in The Gratitude Box in the narthex.

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, NJ 07871

973. 729. 7773

www.SpartaUMC.org

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**** * * Note the urgent deadline of May 7th.***